

Amendments to the Abstract:

The Abstract for the application appears on the front page of the PCT application. Applicant has rewritten the Abstract on to a separate page as is required for US practice. Further, Applicant has made amendments to the Abstract. A marked-up version of the Abstract is provided below, and a clean version is provided on page 13 of this Amendment.

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

The invention describes an arbitration management method and system for use in identifying RFID transponders or tags which each transmit a response signal to a reader within a respective waiting period the maximum duration of which can be adjusted. The maximum duration is determined by a random number transmitted to a counter (20) along a number of data lines (1, 2, 4, 8), at least one of the data lines (4, 8) being provided with logic gates (40, 30) which block or permit data line signals reaching the binary inputs (26, 25) of the counter to control the maximum length of the waiting period.